Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs
Home and Community Care
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2006

### Attendance:

Alan Tavares, Co-Chair; RI Partnership for Home Care
Corinne Calise Russo, Director; Department of Elderly Affairs
Paulla Lipsey, DEA
Michelle Szylin, DEA
Donna M. Cone, Ph.D, DEA
Gloria Williams, AARP
Dottie Santagata, RIADSA
Richard Yacino, Department of Health
Donna Rotondi, Office of Lt. Governor, LTCCC
Helen Zuffoletti, Alliance for Better Long Term Care
Paula Parker, Department of Elderly Affairs
Jean Anderson, VNS Newport and Bristol Counties
Mary Frances Campbell, RIRTA/AARP
Kathleen Kelly, RIALA
Karen Beauchesne, VNA of Care New England

**Excused: Christian Stephens, NRI/ CRA Community Services** 

Meeting was called to order by Co- Chair Alan Tavares at 9:15 am.

## **Review of Minutes of Last Meeting**

Ms. Kelly wanted to clarify the legislation on the RIHMFC Waiver. She stated it was to protect the remaining 49 slots for the other facilities who participate in that waiver. Mrs. Lipsey thought the court order protected the 49 slots. Ms. Parker stated it protected the 151 slots and this legislation was to codify the law. She also stated if the Federal Government removes support of the waiver the state does not need to sustain it. Mrs. Lipsey stated this waiver is up for renewal this year.

Ms. Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes, Ms. Williams seconded, the motion carried.

# **DEA Program Updates**

Mrs. Lipsey gave a brief overview of the number of new clients and increases in services for the month of March. Ms. Parker asked how long it takes before someone gets services. Ms. Lipsey stated there has been a new authorization process put in place to project the cost of services. She feels the authorization of Medicaid services would be shorter.

Director Russo and Ms. Parker spoke about the report Community

Based Long-Term Care Services in Rhode Island, A Report Issued Pursuant to Joint Resolution 05-R 384 (2005), which was discusses at the State House. This report speaks to a study conducted by the Center for Health Program Development and Management at the University of Maryland regarding the Community- based Long-term The study looked at several factors: Service care services in RI. Rates, Workforce Capacity for future provision of services, restructuring state funding to support assisted Living, home care, respite care and adult day care. The report gave several findings to approve delivery of HCBS in RI. One of the suggestions was to enhance training of discharge planners across the Presumptive eligibility was discussed as a means of providing HCBS services in a more timely fashion. Presumptive eligibility would assume people are eligible for services. The percentage of people who are not actually eligible is so small, the loss is minimal.

Dr. Cone advised the Latency report on authorizing Adult Day Services is complete and Ms. Szylin will get that report out to people prior to the next meeting.

## Home and Community Care Worker of the Year Update

Mrs. Lipsey reminded everyone that the event is May 25, 2006 and 10:00. All information has been sent out to all the vendors for nominations. Ms. Kelly inquired if Assisted Living Facilities will be included. Mrs. Lipsey advised we would not be able to accommodate

many more people this year. Perhaps one of the assisted Living Facilities could host the event next year in order to accommodate all nursing assistants in all venues. Mrs. Lipsey advised the volunteers for the nomination committee will be contacted.

Director Russo stated she would like this committee to develop a subcommittee which will establish Guidelines for planning and developing this event.

A motion to form a Subcommittee to plan and develop the HCC ceremony for 2007 was made by Gloria Williams and seconded by Jean Anderson. The motion Carried.

# **Legislative Update**

Ms. Parker Reported that the assisted living bill passed out of Committee on the Senate side. Also pertaining to assisted living, the House passed the disclosure bill which states the AL must disclose to the resident what they will be paying.

Ms. Parker also reported that there is a bill which sates the DOH and Ombudsman will receive reports if incidence from the facility at the same time.

Mr. Yacino reports there is already a statute in place that the Ombudsman and DOH get the report automatically. DOH sends the reports to the Ombudsman as policy. Ms. Parker stated Dr. Gifford

of the DOH made changes to the bill. The issue seems to be that the DOH is the regulatory agency and it appears the Ombudsman wants to be independent of the DOH. DOH is the regulatory agency. Mr. Yacino stated that sometimes the Ombudsman may investigate a complaint first and they call it in to DOH. DOH must complete their own investigation.

A discussion took place regarding what the Ombudsman is to investigate. It is understood that they are authorized to investigate abuse, neglect and exploitation. In home care, they are only to investigate a complaint of the home care agency. If the complaint is against a family member the DEA investigates those complaints. ADS is not part of their purview, however they will call them in on occasion.

There are several RIPAE bills. One of the has to do with how Medicare Part D interacts with RIPAE.

Another issue is the Independent Transportation Network. This was introduced by Senator Tassoni and has passed the Senate side. A study will be conducted regarding RI fashioning the State of Maine's program. It is a volunteer program where people volunteer to serve as drivers for elders for any service. They are paid a fee for the service. The older person can donate a car and get credit for Rides. The drivers are insured. There have been several problems with the current RIDE program in RI.

Dr. Cone lead a discussion regarding National finger printing. She was involved with a study group conducted by OHHS. It was discovered that this is a very complex issue and is very costly. It was also discovered that it does not always work. There were demonstration projects in five states and not one of them is going to adopt this.

#### **Old Business**

### No old business

#### **New Business**

Item to be added to the agenda is a discussion fo discharge planning and how this committee can assist.

There will be no May meeting due to the Home and Community Care worker of the Year celebration. The next meeting will be June 27, 2006.

Mr. Tavares adjourned the meeting at 11:00.